

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195927
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:ASCFULLER
APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM
ARA:FMCNEIL, V VAKY
L/ARA:FARMSTRONG
HA:MSCHNEIDER
S/S-O:TMARTIN
NSC:RPASTOR

-----078931 031804Z /44

O R 031744Z AUG 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE 0504

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NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEPR BL

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF RELATIONS

REF: BOEKER-VAKY TELCON, AUGUST 2; LA PAZ 6,72

1. PER TELCON, WE UNDERSTAND PEREDA AND HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISORS ARE NOW SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A CONSENSUS WITHIN THE MILITARY TO HOLD NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN LATE 1979 AND INSTALL THE NEW DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN JANUARY OF 1980. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT SOME ELEMENTS IN THE MILITARY ARE RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO THIS SCHEDULING AND WOULD DELAY ELECTIONS UNTIL EARLY 1980 AND INSTALL

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THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN MID-YEAR.

2. WE FEEL WE SHOULD NOW MOVE TO INDICATE THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT PRACTICE, WE ARE CONTINUING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BOLIVIA.

3. EMBASSY IS THEREFORE AUTHORIZED TO ACKNOWLEDGE ON

AUGUST 4 THE CIRCULAR NOTE ANNOUNCING THE ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY PEREDA AS PRESIDENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW CABINET (REFTEL). IF THE AUGUST 6 DATE FOR PEREDA'S SPEECH SLIPS AND YOU FEEL IT ADVISEABLE TO DELAY NOTE AFTER AUGUST 4, PLEASE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.

4. THE EMBASSY'S REPLY SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE NOTE OF JULY 24 FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS BY WHICH THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WAS INFORMED THAT GENERAL JUAN PEREDA ASBUN HAD ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA AND A CABINET HAD BEEN APPOINTED; THAT HIS GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES TRANQUILITY THROUGHOUT BOLIVIAN TERRITORY AND HAS DECLARED ITS PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A FREE POLITICAL SYSTEM WITH DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATIONS AND WITH FULL POPULAR PARTICIPATION ORIGINATING FROM THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE; THAT IT WILL RESPECT ALL INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS TO WHICH BOLIVIA IS A PARTY; AND THAT IT WISHES TO CONTINUE THE CORDIAL RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS. I HAVE THE FURTHER HONOR TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO RECIPROCATATE THE DESIRE EXPRESSED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA TO CONTINUE THESE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO
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COUNTRIES."

5. ONCE THE US NOTE IS DELIVERED, WE PRESUME THE GOB WILL LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE US HAS CONTINUED RELATIONS. IF QUESTIONED BY THE PRESS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL RESPOND AS BELOW:

A. QUESTION - HAS THE U.S. RECOGNIZED THE NEW BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT?

ANSWER - WE HAVE INFORMED THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT THAT WE WILL CONTINUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IT. WHEN WE CONTINUE RELATIONS WITH A COUNTRY, AS IN THIS INSTANCE, IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION AND IT HAS NOT BEEN OUR PRACTICE TO DO SO.

B. QUESTION - DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE NEW REGIME?

ANSWER - CONTINUATION OF RELATIONS IMPLIES NEITHER APPROVAL NOR DISAPPROVAL OF THE NATURE OR PROGRAMS OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.

C. QUESTION - WHAT THEN IS THE US POSITION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN BOLIVIA?

ANSWER - WE PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED OUR REGRET AT THE EVENTS WHICH INTERRUPTED THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. HOWEVER, WE

NOTE THE ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO ESTABLISH A FREE POLITICAL SYSTEM BASED ON THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL BOLIVIANS. WE HOPE THAT THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION, STARTED UNDER PRESIDENT BANZER, WILL BE RESUMED AND WILL REACH FRUITION UNDER PRESIDENT PEREDA.

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6. SHORTLY AFTER THE EMBASSY'S NOTE ON CONTINUATION OF RELATIONS HAS BEEN DELIVERED, THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO RAISE THE MATTER OF THE PENDING EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION ON THE PRISONER TRANSFER TREATY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BANZER DID NOT SIGN THE TREATY PRIOR TO HIS RESIGNATION AND THAT PEREDA HAS NOT YET HAD TIME TO DO SO HIMSELF. YOU SHOULD URGE THAT THE FINAL STEPS BE COMPLETED BY THE GOB SO THAT THE TREATY MAY COME INTO EFFECT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, RECOGNITION, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE195927
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ASCFULLER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840140-2154
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808101/aaaadhapp.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 22ce8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1544835
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUATION OF RELATIONS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, BL, US, (BOEKER, PAUL H), (PEREDA, JUAN)
To: LA PAZ WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/22ce8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014